



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
554th ENGINEER BATTALION
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER SCHOOL
FORT LEONARD WOOD, MISSOURI 65473-8941

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

ATSE-BF

16 June 2010

Commander, 554th Engineer Battalion

Dear EBOLC Student:

Welcome to the 554th Engineer Battalion, and the Engineer Basic Officer Leader Course (EBOLC). You will soon become part of a proud battalion, with lineage and battle honors from both World War II and Vietnam. EBOLC is an intense 17-week program that will challenge you physically and mentally. The course provides all newly commissioned engineer officers with the technical and tactical knowledge and skills that are essential to success as a platoon leader.

Come prepared to learn. Your pre-commissioning source provided you with great training to prepare you to be an effective Army officer. Here, a dedicated and professional staff will train and motivate you to be knowledgeable, disciplined, and physically fit engineer platoon leaders regardless of your component or specific follow on assignment. Listed below is some guidance to prepare you prior to signing in here at Fort Leonard Wood and tips for success at EBOLC:

a. Be physically fit. Officers, especially 2nd Lieutenants, are expected to be extremely physically fit. Like all soldiers, 2LTs are also expected to meet Army height and weight standards in accordance with Army Regulation 600-9. Upon arrival at EBOLC you will be weighed and taped. Do not allow yourself to exceed the allowable standards. Failure to meet the standard will result in unfavorable administrative action that will be reflected on your permanent Academic Evaluation Report (AER) at the end of the course. The company leadership will provide all soldiers with an intense, challenging physical training program designed to improve muscular strength and endurance. The cadre will administer an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT) within your first two weeks of arrival and a second APFT towards the end of the course. I recommend that you begin training for these events before you arrive through a routine of push-up and sit-up improvement as well as running. For further guidance and suggested training see FM 21-20 on the Army Digital Library.

b. Be prepared for a challenging academic course load. EBOLC is known for being a math-intensive course. Demolitions, bridging, vertical, and horizontal construction are just a few of the areas that engineer officers are expected to apply solid math skills. If math is a weakness, I recommend that you review basic algebra and geometry concepts prior to arrival. You will be administered a diagnostic math exam during your first few days here. Available to you in TAB K of this welcome packet are some sample questions that should guide you in your math preparation prior to arrival. Also, bring a scientific calculator with you.

You are coming to EBOLC during an exciting time of change and adaptation. Our Army is at War, and we will prepare you to be an adaptive, combat ready leader. We will provide you with the Warrior Skills that you need to successfully lead in combat, whether in Iraq, Afghanistan or wherever our great Nation sends us. You must come here prepared to learn, study and develop these skills and be apply them immediately upon graduation. Our Nation expects you to take care of its sons and daughters in a dangerous time, complete the missions you are assigned,

and bring your Soldiers back home safely to their loved ones. We are committed to your success.

For many of you, EBOLC will be your first exposure to the regular Army. Learn all that you possibly can to prepare yourself for platoon leadership. The team here will aid in this, but rest assured that you will only get out of the course what you put into it. Remember, your future soldiers expect you to come to them prepared to take charge. Take this responsibility seriously. I look forward to meeting you and your family! *Essayons!*

Sincerely,

// Original signed//
CHRISTOPHER T. DREW
LTC, EN
Commanding